



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

ACTION CALENDAR

April 12, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission  
 Submitted by: Jose Bedolla, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission  
 Subject: UC Berkeley Agreement

**RECOMMENDATION**

The University of California recently agreed to pay the City of Berkeley \$4.3 million<sup>1</sup> a year to cover cost expended by the City due to the University's expansion and cost on the City. The funding is intended to 'support fire and city services.' The DSFC recommends that the City administer the funds separately from the general funds and with public review under the DSFC similar to FF and GG for the duration of the agreement.

**FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION**

There are no fiscal impacts to the recommendation since this is new money above and beyond the current budget allocation.

**CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

The University of California at Berkeley (Cal) is expected to increase its enrollment by as much as 33%. Even without the increase, the number of calls are driven in part by the college population without a defined revenue source for recovery. Any increase in student population will pull resources away from efforts funded by GG and FF such as inspections, vegetation management, and fire preparedness. To compensate the City for the increased impact, the University agreed to a \$4.3 million annually in compensation for 10 years. Under that agreement, the Fire Department is expected to get a boost of \$2.8 M. These funds are needed to increase personnel to service the expanding population. The spending should come under specific public review via the DSFC.

At the September 22, 2021 regular meeting, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission voted on a motion to recommend that the City administer the funds separately from the general funds and with public review under the DSFC similar to FF and GG for the duration of the agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.berkeleyaside.org/2021/07/14/uc-berkeley-payment-settlement-agreement>

M/S: Dean/Bradstreet

Votes: 7 Ayes: Rader, Dean, Degenkolb, Cutler, Simmons, Bedolla, Bradstreet; 0 Noes;  
1 Absent: Stein; 0 Abstain.

**BACKGROUND**

The DFSC oversees GG and FF in collaboration with the Fire Department and City Administration. The DSFC has requested the Fire Department provide budget statements that are publically reviewed on the following basis:

1. Quarterly: official document
2. Monthly: unofficial document status report
3. Annual: Formal annual report

In addition, each of these documents will track performance measures against targets and budget. The public is able to comment at a more minute level rather than a citywide level where some of the detail maybe lost.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

There is no environmental impact to this recommendation.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The DFSC would like to ensure that the new funding does in fact go to the intended activity instead of general use.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED**

An alternative could be a line item in the general fund. This could serve a similar function. However, the public would not be able to comment as much or as freely given the size of the general budget and the volume of City business before it.

**CITY MANAGER**

See companion report.

**CONTACT PERSON**

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